

THE
BOSTON MEDICAL AND SURGICAL JOURNAL.

VOL. XXXVIII.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 24, 1848.

No. 17.

FOREIGN BODY IN THE TRACHEA.

To the Editor of the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.

SIR,—I send you a few notes of a case, hoping it will be of some little service to your readers, since it may assist to establish the practice recommended by a very distinguished surgeon (J. Mason Warren) in a communication in the 20th number of the Journal for 1847.

On the 9th day of October last, I, with another member of the profession, was summoned by one of the coroners of Steuben Co., N. Y., to examine the body of a child who had died rather suddenly, which so much astonished some of the neighbors that they feared some indiscretion had been practised by the people with whom the child had lived—they not being its parents. When we arrived at the house where the body was, the lady who had the care of it gave us the following history. She said the child was about 5 years old; that two days before, about 9 o'clock in the morning, while playing with some garden beans on the floor, it suddenly cried out and showed symptoms of being choked, but soon got better and returned to play, though it said it had swallowed a bean. The child appeared well until about noon, when it was again attacked with a spasmodic choking, which was quite severe and lasted several minutes. The child again recovered, however, and after partaking of some food, returned to play, but complained a little now and then of feeling the bean choke it, yet appeared so well that the people with whom it lived indulged the hope that the accident would not prove very serious. About 4 o'clock it was again attacked with spasmodic breathing, struggling violently to breathe, but could not, and died within two minutes of this last attack.

Autopsy.—The trachea was laid open its entire length, and appeared healthy, except the part occupied by the bean, which was found about twelve lines above the bifurcation, completely filling the calibre of the trachea so that it did not appear possible for a particle of air to get to or from the lungs. The mucous membrane of the trachea around the bean was slightly tumefied and inflamed.

Among the considerations, then, that should influence the surgeon to operate for foreign bodies in the trachea, are its situation, size and con-

sistence, and especially whether it be liable to enlarge from warmth and moisture.

SEELY BROWNELL.

Bath, N. Y., May 8th, 1848.

DR. WILLIAMS'S MEDICAL LECTURE.

[Concluded from page 320.]

GENERAL intelligence is the only adequate remedy in our power for *quackery* in all its multiplied forms. At present, however, if an individual chooses to be a knave and prosecute his business successfully, he has only to style himself a doctor, or even a manufacturer of "patent medicines," and he is hailed as a *prodigy* in medicine, a benefactor of mankind! Upon this subject the community is grossly abused and deceived; you will therefore pardon me for presenting it in its true light on this occasion. I say, therefore, if there are those in society who more especially subsist by fraud, who "reap where they have not sown, and gather where they have not strewn," they are the venders of "patent medicines." There can be no doubt that, in general, the individual who purchases these medicines, gets more real value in the box or bottle which contains them, than in the medicine itself. In the language of Dr. Franklin, "he pays too dear for his whistle." One man who resides in this village, and who is a *poor* man, informed me that during the last summer he paid out eight dollars for patent medicines, and without the least benefit. From the false and dishonest pretensions in regard to them, he anticipated a speedy cure; but the only certainty which he realized was, that he had been deceived, and his money fraudulently drawn from his pocket. Herrick had his mind, perhaps, on this subject, when writing the following lines:—

"So when the gilded baits of vice
Are placed before our longing eyes,
With greedy haste we snatch our fill,
And swallow down the latent ill;
But when experience opes our eyes,
Away the fancied pleasure flies;
It flies; but, oh, too late we find,
It leaves a real sting behind."

I do not say that all "patent medicines" are an imposition upon the public, or that they are invariably prepared by those who know nothing of their scientific preparation. In nine cases out of ten, however, this is the case; and in the tenth, there is danger of its being so. This is apparent when we consider, that they are almost invariably prepared by stunted clergymen, small druggists, or broken-down Thomsonian doctors. Seldom, indeed, have regular physicians resorted to such disreputable means for a livelihood; and to their honor be it spoken. And who, I ask, is competent to prepare medicines for those they have never seen, and for diseases which they have not personally investigated, if regular practitioners are not? And certainly they are not, for the very simple reason, that no one remedy will produce the same effect on different individuals, in consequence of the various and even opposite circumstances

which exist. Hence a "patent medicine" is not certain in its results, but is at best a random shot, which may either kill the patient or relieve the disease. But "by their fruits ye shall know them." And I will therefore submit one or two cases of their effects, which have fallen under my own observation.

A little girl was unwell for several days, and the parents were of the opinion, that her illness was occasioned by worms. A bottle of Fahnestock's vermifuge was accordingly obtained, a portion of which was given, and the removal of a few worms followed. Immediately afterwards an inflammation of the bowels set in, of which she died in about forty-eight hours. In another case, where the same remedy had been used, convulsions were produced, which continued several days, and seriously threatened a fatal termination. In another instance the citron ointment was used for an eruption of the face. The eruption was soon removed, but scarcely had the disease disappeared before epileptic fits ensued, imminently threatening the life of the little sufferer for about ten days, when the eruption of the face again appeared and the fits subsided. And thus it is with all medicines of whose constituents we are ignorant; they may possibly perform an occasional cure; and there is also danger of their aggravating the disease, or even substituting a more dangerous one in its stead. Those who use secret remedies, which is the character of patent medicines, must run some risk, and in the end will find, if they have not used them for weal, they have for woe.

You may think physicians *interested*, when they make remarks like these; but they are less so than the community in general, for the reason that there is no danger of our being duped in matters of this character; and besides, the services of a physician are frequently required in consequence of the mischievous effects of these mis-named patent medicines. It is not in behalf of the medical faculty, but society in general, that I complain. I would say, however, that justice and equality demand, that you should require the same of those who vend these nostrums, as you do of medical men. If you have a right to know what medicine you take from the hands of a physician, and how it will operate, then you have a right to inquire into the nature and composition of these *wonderful* medicines, which perform such *wonderful* cures, and for such a *wonderful* small price. All I ask in this matter is, that it may be brought to light, together with everything else pertaining to the medical profession. I choose not "darkness, or the works of darkness"; but that we may all "come to the light, that our deeds may be manifest." And in this physicians are *interested*, for nothing would so much contribute to a general and implicit confidence in the true principles of practical medicine as this. Physicians generally, I believe, are anxious that all should investigate and understand. At least, so I preach and so I believe. As far as my observation extends, those who have the most confidence in the physician and follow the most strictly his directions, are those who are the most noted for good sense and literary and scientific attainments. Why, then, should medical men wish to conceal their system and perpetuate the gross ignorance of the public mind in relation

to it? For one, I will advocate no sentiment, cherish no doctrine, practise no system, which will not at all times bear the test of candid and thorough investigation.

Let us, then, inquire, in short, what are the fundamental principles of the medical profession? In the first place, it may be observed, that practical medicine is both general and special in its details. It is to diseases, what the constitution of the United States and the laws of Congress are to the inhabitants of the several States. The former is general, whilst the latter are local in their provisions. And thus it is in the science of medicine; there are certain general principles applicable to all diseases, and there are also special remedies for the treatment of each particular disease. But in order to be systematic and intelligible, it will be necessary to make the following classification of diseases, viz.:—Fevers, Inflammations, and Nervous Diseases. This arrangement will comprehend all *simple* diseases, however diversified their characters and symptoms may be. In this vicinity, inflammatory affections are the most frequent; fevers come next in order; and, lastly, those of a nervous character. The question then occurs, on what principles are these various classes of diseases treated, by what are styled “regular physicians.” I answer, if one individual is attacked with fever, and another with some inflammatory disease, there being a similarity in their nature, we practise the *depleting* system. That is, we reduce the corporeal strength in proportion to the intensity of the disease, and the age, habits, and other circumstances of the patient. We do not go to work to increase or even to preserve the physical powers, or, as some would say, to prevent the patient from “running down.” On the contrary, the course pursued is calculated to produce this very effect. Let it be understood, then, that in treating fevers and inflammatory diseases we adopt the reducing or depleting system. What! exclaims an individual, would you wish to reduce your patient when his strength is already below the natural standard? Most certainly, Sir. Not as an end, however, but as a means for the removal of disease. And this we do for the reason, that physical strength is an impediment to its favorable progress and safe termination. Experience teaches us that persons of a plethoric habit, and those of great corporeal strength and energy, are more liable to inflammatory disorders and acute fevers, than those of a spare habit. And not only so, but that the *former* are likewise in more danger of an unfavorable termination of the same disease than the *latter*. These facts are indisputable, and they teach us a lesson in the treatment of certain diseases, of more value than all the theories in the world which disregard their importance. They are the strongest indications in favor of depletion, so far as acute diseases, whether fevers or inflammations, are concerned. Nor is this all. Who does not know, that diseases of the foregoing character are more intense at their commencement, than towards their close, and that the patient loses his disease in the same proportion that he loses his strength; and *vice versa*? The truth is, corporeal strength and disease often go hand in hand; and it is only necessary to diminish the former to produce a favorable effect upon the latter. This, when viewed as an abstract

principle, may to superficial observers appear as an erroneous conclusion. But when they visit the bed-side of the sick, witness the progress of the disease, and watch the operation of medicines, they must deny the evidence of their own senses, or admit the correctness of the foregoing assertions.

Such are some of the considerations upon which the depleting system is predicated; and to my mind they are conclusive; although it may be proper to add, that experience has also taught us, that stimulating and strengthening medicines tend to aggravate the disease, be it fever or inflammation. Of the truth of this last remark, not only physicians, but nurses and all who have any knowledge of the sick room, are aware. Do not, then, my friends, when you experience an attack of pleurisy, or of inflammation of the lungs, brain, bowels, &c., be alarmed should your physician inform you that it will be necessary to deplete. This object is effected in a variety of ways. Bleeding, emetics, cathartics and perspirative remedies, are its ordinary means. Of these it may be said, that they not only serve to deplete the system, but to expel or throw out of it any poisonous substance which may have resulted from disease, or which served to produce it. Even our homœopathic brethren occasionally are obliged to lay aside their principle of "*similia similibus curantur*," and resort to the emetics and cathartics of the old school—thus sanctioning no small share of the regular practice, and at the same time acknowledging the incompetency of their own. Not only experience, but the plainest dictates of common sense, sanction the use of emetics and cathartics.

Aside from the foregoing classification of remedies, there are others of no less importance in many cases, though not of the same common and general use. Tonics, diuretics, &c., are some of them; all of which come into requisition at times, and under various circumstances. Besides these general properties of medicines, each possesses some *peculiar* physical, chemical or medicinal property, the last of which renders them peculiarly beneficial when administered under certain circumstances. Thus calomel, although a cathartic, has a peculiar effect upon the liver, the glands of the mouth, &c. Cream of tartar is also a cathartic, but exercises a *peculiar* influence over the urinary organs. Rhubarb is more especially a cathartic, but is peculiar for the tonic or strengthening property which it possesses. And thus it is with every other medicine, there being no two of them which are in all respects precisely alike. These general and peculiar properties of medicinal substances, are a wise provision of providence, designed to meet the exigencies of disease under the great variety of character which it presents. The subject also shows that there is a divine recognition of medical science, inasmuch as there is an appropriate relation of "means to their ends," and that when properly understood, the science of medicine is the interpretation of natural laws relative to diseases.

Thus much in regard to medicines generally; and I now pass to a few observations on the subject of bloodletting, as there is some prejudice in the community against the practice. I will say, then, that we gene-

rally bleed for the purpose of depleting the system and of bringing it to a state *less* favorable to fever or inflammation, than it is prior to the operation. Other remedies will frequently produce the same effect, if time can be allowed for their operation. But where this cannot be done, the most direct and effectual remedy in our power is bloodletting. This will accomplish at once, what other means would require hours to perform. Look, for a moment, at the nature of the malady, and the correctness of the assertion is obvious. In cases of local inflammation of the brain, for instance, there is a special determination of blood to the part, the bloodvessels are distended beyond their ordinary limits, and the flow of blood through this delicate organ is materially increased. If, under these circumstances, blood be drawn from the arm, the quantity in the system is to some extent reduced; and, as a natural consequence, there is a diminution of the quantity flowing to the brain. This at once relieves the pressure to which the organ has been subjected, and enables the bloodvessels to contract themselves and perform their wonted labor with increased ease and safety. And not only this, but the commotion, the agitation, and the hurried state of the general circulation, are sensibly and greatly relieved. Hence, by this solitary operation we accomplish a multiplicity of objects necessary to the removal of the disease. 1st, we abate the excitement of the system in general; 2d, we reduce the quantity of blood flowing to the brain; 3d, we unload the bloodvessels of the brain of their superfluous contents, and thus contribute much to the restoration of the organ to its healthful condition. These are our reasons for bloodletting, in this disease, and our views of its operation generally; and not, as some suppose, because there is too much blood in the system. Judge ye, whether they are philosophical or not. What has been said of its necessity and advantages in inflammation of the brain, is equally true of it in most cases of acute local inflammation of other organs. Like every other powerful remedy, it should be prescribed cautiously, although there are cases where its use cannot safely be dispensed with, the declaration of Dr. Thomson to the contrary notwithstanding.

Calomel, also, is a medicine against which some prejudice exists. But still there are cases in which it answers a better purpose than any other known remedy. These cases, however, are not common; and, for one, I am glad to see the wholesale use of this article dispensed with. Not by any means for the reason, that it is guilty of one quarter of the bad effects which the lobelia and pepper advocates have imputed to it. It will not be disputed, however, that bad effects have sometimes followed the use of calomel. This has been the case with all active remedies, capsicum and lobelia not excepted. And, indeed, a medicine which is not capable of any deleterious consequences, is not capable of doing any good; although it is sometimes said of medicines, "if they don't do any good, they won't do any hurt." As much as to say, *if the patient gets better, the medicine has had a good effect, and I'll take the credit of it; if he dies, it has had no effect, and you can't blame me any way.* This is a species of chicanery quite common among some classes of practitioners, and is too absurd to require any argument for its exposure. But

to return. The bad effects of calomel should not invariably be imputed to the medicine itself. Physicians, nurses, and frequently patients themselves, have occasionally been to blame for its mischievous consequences; consequences, too, which would not have followed the necessary, prudent and appropriate use of it. On the other hand, it is unwise to raise the objection, that it is a "mineral," unless it be shown, in the first place, that *minerals* are objectionable, which has not and probably never will be done. What are soda, sulphur, potash, common salt, &c., but *minerals*? Or to what are we to impute the many thousand cures of Saratoga and other waters, if not to the *minerals* which they contain? Such are the extremes into which individuals have fallen, relative to the use of this article, all of which ought studiously to be avoided. Give us a better article in all respects, and we will no longer use the one under consideration; but till this is done, my maxim will be, use it when we must, and avoid it when we can—a rule from which the faculty in general ought not to depart.

The third and last class of diseases to be noticed, is that of nervous affections. Diseases of this character are such as originate in the nervous system, and do not admit of those qualities which pertain to fevers and inflammatory disorders. In short, they are diseases more especially of *irritation*, and are generally confined to a limited portion of the nervous system. Suffice it to say, that the equilibrium of the nervous sensibility has been destroyed, and, as a natural consequence, there is increased or diminished irritability of the whole, or some particular part of the nervous system. Palsy, St. Vitus's dance, epilepsy, &c., are diseases of this nature. In these cases, as well as all others, the original cause must be removed, and not unfrequently the consequences will immediately cease. Hence, if it be worms, remove them; if mechanical pressure, relieve that; or if it be some poison contained in the system, that also must be expelled. Should the original cause be wanting, or should its removal not result in the cure of the disease, then other means will of necessity be brought into requisition. And these should be of a character calculated to remove the direct cause of the disease, or, in other words, to restore the equilibrium of the nervous sensibility. To this end, we have recourse to a great variety of remedies, determining the best one for each particular case, by its peculiar properties and the circumstances under which it is to be used. As a general rule, if the sensibility be *increased*, we resort to palliative and soothing remedies; if it be *diminished*, we rely upon stimulating medicines with a view to its restoration. Blisters, setons, stimulating liniments, frictions, electricity, fomentations, anodyne applications, the cold and warm bath, &c. &c., are the means by which each of these objects is to be attained.

Such is a general view of the manner in which nervous diseases are to be treated, in addition to those of an inflammatory and febrile character. At least such is the manner of their treatment by "regular physicians," and it is for you to say whether there is reason and philosophy in their system or not. To me, at least, there seems as much as theories in general are possessed of, and far more than in any other

system of medicine which has ever been invented. And this I say, not without some knowledge of all the different systems, and their *boasting* pretensions, with which our own is assailed. The truth is, these have ever been springing into being, and perhaps always will be; and though their advocates have *boasted largely* of their advantages over the old system, yet the community have always soon learned the imposition which had been practised, and have returned with renewed confidence to that system, which though it performed more, had the modesty to promise less. These have been, towards the regular system, what the eddies are, in our own beautiful Oswego, to the stream itself. You watch their operations for a moment, and they appear to circle round and round, gathering additional force at every revolution, till you are almost led to suppose that the entire stream will soon be involved; but at length the tendency of the current prevails, they cease their sports, and are borne off by the onward, still onward, majestic river.

But still, we of the "old school" have nothing whereof we may boast, conscious as we are of the inadequacy of even our own system to meet the numerous wants of suffering humanity. But if individuals would increase our abilities for staying the ravages of disease; if they would prevent their fellows from falling prematurely on the right hand and on the left; if they would raise the confidence of society in the healing art, let them learn that *man* is a subject of organic laws, the constant violation of which has bid defiance to the best energies and most exalted purposes of our humane art. Here is a work which no system of medicine under heaven can perform; and the consequences of which we should charge home upon the wicked and pernicious customs of society, rather than the imperfections of medical knowledge. If, then, fellow citizens, you are frequently called to part with friends, and to give them over to a premature dissolution, I caution you, in the name of justice, to beware how you endeavor to throw the responsibility upon the attending physician, be he whom or what he may. Ere this, yours is the duty to retrace the steps you have taken, to banish the artificial customs of society, and to conform to the laws of your physical constitution. In short, to "live soberly, righteously and godly in this present world." And as the guardians of your health and lives, ours is the duty to consecrate our talents to medical science, to appreciate and exalt its merits, to study and improve its principles, and to cultivate a religious sense of the obligations we are under to you and our fellow beings throughout the world.

SUDDEN DEATH FROM FRACTURE OF THE VERTEBRA.

To the Editor of the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.

SIR,—The sudden death of a lad aged 14 years, who fell in attempting to get from a pew into the aisle of a meeting-house, near my residence, brought to mind the case which occurred to Mr. Abernethy, at

St. Bartholomew's Hospital, some years past. This lad, who fell here, son of Mr. Tracy, struck on the angle of the socket of the left eye. The contusion was slight in external appearance; but death was instantaneous, he showing no sign of life after the fall, but one single gasp!

The case which occurred at St. Bartholomew's, was related in the London Metropolitan, and never, that I know of, has appeared in any medical journal. The relater says:—"A *drunken* coal-heaver fell from a waggon, going up Ludgate Hill. He was covered with mud, and appeared to be hurt. I and two others laid him upon a shutter, and took him to St. Bartholomew's Hospital. He was stripped, and the surgeon examined him, but no injury could be discovered; still he could not rise up in bed. Mr. Abernethy happened to come in shortly afterwards, when the case was shown to him, but he could make nothing of it. 'Let him,' said that great surgeon, 'be washed thoroughly clean, and send for a barber and have that beard taken off, which appears to be of a month's growth.' About an hour after this, as I was relating to the surgeon how he fell from the waggon, a message was brought that the man had instantaneously, while he was undergoing the operation of shaving, given up the ghost. We all immediately repaired to the spot, where lay the man, half shaven and quite dead. The barber said he appeared to be well, and was talking to him one instant, and the next was a dead man. 'I had hold of him,' said he, 'by the nose, and did but turn his head very gently to use the razor, when he, without breathing or a sigh, went off.'

"Abernethy turned to the young students, and told them this was a case for study, saying, 'there was a cause for the man's death; and that the following morning he would open the body and find it out.' 'But,' added he, 'think of the case, and before I make the examination, tell me in the morning, each of you, your opinion, what it is that has so suddenly deprived him of his life.'" One of the students said, 'I think a vertebral bone is fractured, and that as the barber turned his head to shave him, a splinter penetrated the spinal cord.' 'You have it,' cried Abernethy, 'turn him up, and we will see.' They immediately cut down the back, and discovered a small piece of fractured bone, not bigger than half a pin, which had penetrated the spine; then taking the corpse by the nose, they observed, as they turned the head one way, the splinter came out, and as they turned it the contrary, it entered the vital cord. The problem of his death was at once solved, and I learnt how little it took to stop the great machine of *life in man*."

Thus far the relator of this case, to which I may add, in conclusion, the following

Remarks.—The reason that Mr. Abernethy could make nothing of the case, when he first saw the man alive, after the accident, may have been that fractures of the neck of the thigh bone may so disable a patient, that he, like the coal-heaver in this case, could not rise up in bed. The tact and talent of Mr. Abernethy's student, in pointing out the cause of the instant death of the man, when the barber turned his head, by taking hold of his nose to shave him, has ever, when I have

thought of this case, struck me with admiration. The case appears not to have been related by a medical man; hence the vertebra which was fractured is not designated. But we should at once infer that it could be no other than one of the cervical. And this was probably the cause of the instant death of the son of Mr. Tracy.

Yours, dear sir, very truly,

Lebanon, Ct., May, 1848.

JOSEPH COMSTOCK, M.D.

P. S.—There is a case related in which a negro man fractured the fourth and fifth cervical vertebræ, who lived thirty-three hours; but never secreted any urine after the accident. The catheter was frequently introduced, and not a drop drawn.

COLLAPSE OF THE RIGHT LUNG.

To the Editor of the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.

SIR,—Agreeably to your request, I give you the following brief statement. In 1824, I was residing in the interior of the State of New York. I had labored under a chronic affection of the liver for a number of years. July 5th, in consequence of a slight hurt and taking cold, I was seized with a violent inflammation of the liver, which extended to the right lobe of the lungs. After two or three days I resorted to medical aid, and was bled copiously three days in succession. The inflammation was in a measure arrested, but the disease progressed, a strong sense of suffocation was felt in the lungs, especially on lying down, or rising up, accompanied with much pain in the side. In October an abscess was formed under the point of the lower ribs, which, dissolving the cartilage, dropped the lower rib, and broke the ulcer into the cavity of the abdomen. It was then found that the right lung had ceased to act, the ribs were curved in, presenting an acute angle on the side, instead of the regular curve. The right breast became very small, and the right shoulder much lower than the other. Great prostration attended this process; my frame was very much emaciated, and dissolution was looked for by my friends and physicians as the only possible result. The fact that the matter of the abscess had no discharge was considered very unfavorable. The matter was, however, probably taken up by absorption, and circulating through the system found egress in external sores. After the lapse of a year, I began gradually to amend. I should perhaps state, that during the whole process of my disease (with the exception of the three days when I was bled profusely), I was on my feet more or less every day, though I was so weak as to be unable to get off the bed alone. If it be asked what contributed most to my restoration, I answer, *free mountain air and abundant exercise*. I made use of little medicine of any kind. During ten or twelve years I was gradually gaining, and for the last ten years, though weak and very short for breath, I have enjoyed comfortable health. The left lung is very much expanded, and I seem to have a voice of ordinary strength.

I should have added to the causes of my restoration, a buoyant hope, which never allowed me to sink down in despair. The tendency of my mind is to look on the bright side of things, and hope for the best. If this structure of mind is productive of some evils, it also has its value.

Yours respectfully,

Boston, April 25, 1848.

WM. SHERWIN.

[Having examined Mr. Sherwin, the writer of the foregoing communication, a gentleman of high respectability and integrity, and a member of the Legislature of Massachusetts, we believe that he has presented a very accurate description of his case. There has been a striking change in the external condition of the chest on the right side. The ribs appear to have fallen in, so as to diminish the size materially. A curvature of the spine exists, and one shoulder is elevated above the level of the other. Percussion shows clearly, aside from other physical evidences, that the cavity is without a lung. The whole of the left side of the thorax is uncommonly large—and Mr. Sherwin fully believes that its capacity has been increased since the loss of respiration in the right cavity. Mr. S. has good health, though he is by no means robust or calculated for enduring laborious pursuits. A kind of asthmatic breathing, after sudden muscular efforts, as in walking quickly, &c., warns him of the necessity of watching himself with considerable care.

In this age of boldness in surgery, it is surprising that puncturing the thorax has not been undertaken, with a view of collapsing an ulcerated lung. Nature certainly makes large openings into that region, as in the instance now cited, and recoveries follow. A current theory is, that if a diseased lung could be at rest—the function of respiration being carried on by the sound one—a restoration to health would be possible, even in advanced phthisis. This remains to be proved. From the first promulgation of the proposition, we have been hoping that the question would be determined by actual experiment, which would be justifiable in cases where death must inevitably result from the progress of ulceration.—Ed.]

EXTERNAL USE OF CHLOROFORM.

To the Editor of the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.

SIR,—If the following notice meet your approbation, and you should deem it worthy of a place in the pages of your valuable Journal, you are at liberty to make it public.

The discovery of chloroform, and its secondary effects upon the human system, so far as they have been ascertained, has manifestly awakened, on the part of the profession in this country, and in Europe, most ardent and laudable efforts to become acquainted with the fullest extent of its potency, and the whole *rationale* of its action, both as an anæsthetic and therapeutical agent. I take it for granted, therefore, that making known to the medical public any novel symptoms—the

effects of this most wonderful substance—which may fall under the observation of those using it, will tend, in a measure, to accomplish the object desired.

On the 15th of March last, while at the house of a patient of mine, Mr. P., a hale, robust young man, came in to see me, for the purpose of having me “examine his leg,” in which he manifested great lameness when attempting locomotion, and in which he had suffered “severe and incessant pain for the last forty-eight hours.” About the centre of the gastrocnemius muscle, superficially, of the left leg, was the region to which he referred the seat of pain. He could attribute the difficulty to no known cause.

Upon examining the limb I was unable to discover any indications of disease, but concluding the affection to be of a rheumatic nature, I resolved to try the virtue of chloroform externally—having seen a notice of its favorable results under similar circumstances. Accordingly, I at first applied about half a drachm with some degree of friction on the part, and continued the use of it thus, a few minutes, with short intervals after each application, watching narrowly for any visible effect it might produce. He at length complained of nausea, and spoke of experiencing a strange sensation, a peculiar “combination of coldness and numbness,” in the part, and subsequently extending over the whole system. I observed his countenance had become pale, he was stupid, the pulse was retarded in its action and augmented in volume; in short, there were present *all* those phenomena *usually resulting from ordinary inhalation of the article*. He was placed upon a bed. Having lain there a short time, he arose and walked about the room with perfect ease. He said he was entirely free from pain, and thus he has remained up to the present time.

E. E.

N. Andover, May 16, 1848.

PATHOLOGY OF THE BLOOD IN INEBRIATES.

To the Editor of the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.

SIR,—I have been requested by some of my medical friends in Boston, to collect the facts relating to the state of blood taken from an inebriate in South Berwick, Me., and transmit them to your Journal.

It is well known to the members of the medical profession, that liquids, and even mineral and vegetable substances, taken into the stomach, are shortly found in different parts of the system. Madder, for instance, when internally administered, imparts a like color to the milk and urine, and to the bones of animals, without materially affecting the healthy action of any tissue, or sensibly deranging the constituent parts of the solids or fluids, unless too long persevered in. Like results, varying according to the qualities of the fluid, are found whenever any fluid is taken into the stomach capable of absorption. But there are very few known cases in which so much alcohol has been absorbed into the system as to change the chemical qualities of the blood, or so modify it, that its

watery proportions should give place to the fluid which has been immoderately indulged in. The case which we shall now briefly refer to, plainly shows that such may be the fact.

A Mr. Thompson, aged 35 years, had long been subject to fits of intoxication, and was daily accustomed to the demands of a ruling passion. For five days previous to the examination of the blood, he had been in a beastly state of inebriation; and indeed it was found, upon inquiry, that he had drank in that time *two gallons* of "West India rum." At the expiration of the fifth day he went to Dr. J. C. Hanson, complaining of the usual symptoms of drunkenness, and wishing medical aid. Dr. H., seeing that he did not require any active medical treatment, but rather the *expectant* plan, concluded to deplete him a very little for an experiment. The blood was forthwith drawn; and it was found destitute, in a measure, of its watery elements—alcohol having been substituted therefor. Immediately a lighted taper was applied to it, and it began to burn with a flame similar to that of alcohol. This produced such an effect upon the inebriate, that he refrained from his intemperate habits, and afterwards became a more sober man.

The fact that the blood did burn, can be substantiated by the testimony of Drs. Jewett and Hanson, and other respectable citizens of South Berwick, who were eye-witnesses at the time the blood was drawn, and saw the experiment tried.

Yours, &c.

Dover, N. H., May 15, 1848.

T. J. W. PRAY, M.D.

HOBBIES—THE BOSTON MEDICAL AND SURGICAL JOURNAL—SUCCESSFUL USE OF ETHER IN NEURALGIA.

[Communicated for the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.]

THE medical world, as well as all the rest of mankind, is too much disposed to move on hobbies. Whenever a new one is presented to the notice of the profession, not a few of its members are inclined to leap upon its back and take a short ride, however unseemly may be its aspect, or uncomfortable its gait; and though the movement may be altogether a painful one, and the termination disastrous, they assume the old adage, "Neck or nothing" and mount the next new hobby that may be introduced as readily as if complete success had attended all their previous efforts. This propensity for hobbies is more conspicuously to be noticed in the conduct of the medical faculty, for about forty years past, than at any former period of a given length in modern times. This may be accounted for, perhaps, by the oft-repeated discoveries in that time of "New Remedies," and the great improvement that has been made in the preparation, combination, *concentration*, and application of old ones. The subject on which I took up my pen to write on the present occasion, is etherization—being fully aware that, *as a hobby*, its powers of locomotion are already nearly exhausted, and it is about to be turned aside to make way for some of its legitimate progeny, in the shape of chloroform, ethereal solution of gun-cotton, and the Lord knows what.

I have enjoyed the privilege of reading the contents of the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal, for many years, and have been greatly amused, interested and instructed in the perusal of the great variety of interesting and useful matter therein contained. Its being published in weekly sheets, thereby giving opportunity for criticism, explanation and debate, is not among the least of its advantages and its recommendations. I have the volumes bound in such numbers as to form a very conspicuous item in my medical library, and when favored with a leisure hour, I cannot spend it in reading any book or periodical more pleasantly, than by taking a volume of the Journal, and tracing, from number to number, some interesting controverted topic therein contained, each of which constituted a popular hobby at the period of its publication. No matter how much a desire of notoriety or literary fame actuated the various contributors to its pages, so long as the matter is good and calculated to benefit the cause of medical science.

As an anæsthetic agent, the character of ether is sufficiently established, and needs no additional support from such a pen as mine; and I should never have troubled the readers of the Journal with any remarks of my own on the subject, had I not observed one peculiar effect from inhaling the ethereal gas, that I had not seen noted by any other writer—and that is, a diuretic effect. The case in which it was used needs, perhaps, a few passing remarks by way of history, as it has hitherto been found difficult to fix upon it a definite or pathological name. It has been of eighteen years' standing, and was at the first supposed to be calculus in the right kidney, and exhibited all the usual symptoms of passing to the bladder, where, for five years, the opinion existed that it remained, and, of course, was augmenting in size, &c. Much pain was endured during that time, and subsequently, at the neck of the bladder, and shooting pains along the urethra, inability to stand erect or walk, or to rest on the back or left side without causing great pain. Repeated soundings were resorted to, but no stone discovered, and an examination of the prostate gland could not discover that to be diseased; and the case was treated for a number of years, with some degree of relief, with uva ursi, soda water, colchicum, carb. of soda, and a host of other remedies from the catalogue of diuretics, the half of which cannot be recollected, if, indeed, it were necessary. For about ten years past, it has observed a pretty uniform shape, being confined to an insupportable pain at the lower termination of the right ureter, attacking in paroxysms, being generally induced by walking, sitting in a leaning-forward position, riding in a carriage over a rough road, the patient being obliged to relinquish the saddle altogether. These attacks had become very frequent, occurring sometimes from twice to thrice a week, and the pain was insupportable, so that life itself had become a burden, and would willingly have been relinquished by the patient at any time, with the hope of getting clear of the pain. Narcotics, fomentations, and the warm bath, were the efficient means resorted to in these distressing attacks. Opium, in the varied forms of laudanum, black drop, morphine; hyoscyamus, belladonna, stramonium, &c., were liberally used both by the mouth and

as suppositories, and these in such quantities before relief was obtained, that the system was left in a state of exhaustion, and nausea and vomiting were the consequence for a great part of the day following. The time occupied by the diligent use of these remedies, before relief was obtained, was between six and twenty-four hours.

The case has been examined by a number of the first physicians in the cities and country, whose opinions have been very various as to its pathological character; but the opinion most prevalent for a few years past is, that it is neuralgia. About one year ago, in four successive attacks, the ether was inhaled at the commencement of each attack, and in three of them relief was obtained in about five minutes, and in the other it failed, but from what cause I am wholly unable to determine. The system was left in a comfortable state, and not the least unfavorable effect could be observed or traced to its use.

In all this I acknowledge there is nothing remarkable, or that is worthy of the public eye; but the peculiar effect of the medicine alluded to above, was the discharge, each time, in the space of about half an hour, of near or quite a quart of pale, semi-transparent, limpid urine; and the best of all is; the patient has since enjoyed a total exemption from these distressing attacks, and has been enabled to pursue his business, which is that of a physician, in sweet and uninterrupted health. C. BANNISTER.

Phelps, Ont. Co., N. Y., May 13, 1848.

THE BOSTON MEDICAL AND SURGICAL JOURNAL.

BOSTON, MAY 24, 1848.

National Medical Convention.—"Why don't you publish the transactions?" is a common and very natural question, since the adjournment of the Association, but which is easily answered by saying, because we cannot furnish any more than has already been given, till the whole is brought out in a pamphlet. Without knowing much of what was achieved by that body of learned men, not having been able to attend ourselves, it is pretty certain they corrected all the evils and family jars that they could, advised in regard to the future, formed agreeable acquaintance, and by a joint effort labored in other ways to elevate the profession.

Hamamelis Virginiana.—From the American Journal of Homœopathy, the following account of the styptic properties of the well-known shrub, witch-hazel, has been extracted. A careful series of observations is demanded to decide whether it is deserving of the encomiums here bestowed upon it. We have never regarded it as of any great medicinal value. Says a correspondent of that Journal:—

"I have employed the Witch-Hazel for more than thirty years, in one way or another, as a remedial agent. My attention was first called to it by the country people round me, who use it for all manner of hemorrhages.

I once met a young man going to market in his wagon, and having by his side a branch of the witch-hazel in full foliage. I knew that his father and mother, and all the family, no less than eight or ten in numbers, except himself and younger brother, had died of consumption. He, too, was pale and emaciated, and bade fair soon to follow them to the tomb. He told me he dare not leave home without the witch-hazel, to stop his spitting blood; for as soon as it appeared, he chewed some leaves and swallowed the juice, with the invariable effect of arresting it at once. He has ever since continued to use the leaves, or a decoction of the bark. Either of these arrests the hemorrhage and relieves the pains of the chest promptly. He has since lived many years, although his health is not good. But I presume he owes his life to this one article. This is only one of the many similar cases of its successful effects. It does not arrest diarrhœas so remarkably as moderate hemorrhages, especially those of the lungs, stomach and intestines. In hæmatemesis I have found it to operate like a charm."

Etherization in Childbirth.—An octavo volume, illustrated by about four hundred cases, written by Walter Channing, M.D., Professor of Midwifery and Medical Jurisprudence in the Mass. Medical College, is nearly ready for press. The cases introduced into this work, from the known character of the author, will stand as rules of practice, and it is not unreasonable to anticipate for the work an extensive circulation. Whenever published, we shall notify the profession, and give a general view of its leading features.

Theory of Human Existence.—We lately received from the author, Thomas L. Wright, M.D., of Bellefontain, Ohio, a treatise which comprises remarks on vitality, the mind, and incidentally the soul—being an exposition of the nature, powers, and destiny of man, and sat down to its perusal with high-wrought expectations. The doctor must not be offended because we are of the opinion that he has not cleared up a single obscurity in regard to the theory of human existence. Each chapter was read with an increasing hope of arriving at some definite conclusions with regard to the mystery of the union of body and soul, which is alluded to from page to page, in the progress of the inquiry; but disappointment awaits all who look for new light, or marked advances in psychology, in this treatise. Dr. Wright is a man of strong powers and eager aspirations after truth; but in the path he is now travelling, he is doomed, like the countless philosophers of all past ages, to gaze upon the cover of a sealed volume, the contents of which are alone known to the Deity. According to Dr. Wright, the soul, the immaterial, immortal spirit, is always the same in man. Some there are, however, who are more gifted than others, and they are the master spirits, the governors of the various departments of life in which they appear; and they are so, simply because they have better developed organs by which the intellectual force is manifested. In other words, the body is a congeries of beautiful instruments, by the adroit use of which, and in no other manner, the transcendent properties of the soul are exhibited. They do not differ in kind, but in the perfection of the finish. On this point, the doctrines taught by the phrenologist are not entirely different, although differently expressed. The idea is advanced by Dr. Wright, that the mind is not the soul, but the evidence of its activity. The transmission of the

fluid from the battery over the telegraphic wire is an act that records the fact of an independent force, the existence of which is in no way depending on the presence of the wires.

"The instrument of the mind," says Dr. W., "in the organization of Franklin, was more than ordinarily perfect; in consequence, his conceptions were extremely magnificent and correct; and the same of Sir Isaac Newton. Yet, men whose physical construction is such that they would scarcely dream of a truth possessing the magnificence and grandeur of those promulgated by these philosophers, may possess minds which fully comprehend all these men taught, and appreciate and gloat over knowledge with all the satisfaction of its original promulgators. The grasping power of the mind in the former instances is superior, because of superiority of instruments; but the actual body, the length, breadth and depth—the scope and continuing capacity of mind in every instance, is the same, so far as human experience can teach."

Dr. Wright has accomplished nothing for physiology, so far as we can see, in this bold mental research; neither has he rendered essential service to the modern school of metaphysicians: still, he is a deep, honest, persevering thinker, but one who will be compelled, by-and-by, with reluctance to abandon the fascinating subject which engrosses the whole of his intellectual might, and fall back upon a truth as ancient as the days of Job, that *God hath hedged in man*, in regard to the solution of problems like these he is studious to solve. If he will now direct his whole attention to physiology, there are fields still open for investigation, in which rich developments might crown such efforts as his.

Dr. Harris's Introductory Lecture.—Perhaps there is not another locality in America, or in the world, where medical professors are so generally complimented by students, as in Philadelphia. One of the modes of exhibiting their personal respect, is by publishing their introductory discourses. This shows a good state of feeling, and is alike creditable to both. The fact is well established, that the faculty of the different medical institutions in that city are men of kind, gentlemanly deportment, which, united with a happy tact and a profound knowledge of the branches confided to them, is continually increasing the scientific importance of that city of schools. Wm. Harris, M.D., gave a lecture introductory to a course on obstetrics and the diseases of women and children, April 10th, which the auditors have printed, thus enabling us to profit by it also. He is a stickler for a long term of study, which would doubtless tend to make well qualified physicians. He would have every body, intending to practise, pass regularly through the Pennsylvania Hospital, read the Loganian Library, know all about Wills' and the Blockley, and the various other institutions in the "city of brotherly love." Without doubt his views and advice, for Philadelphia students, are excellent. In Boston, they should see all that is going on at the Massachusetts Hospital, the Eye Infirmary, the Lying-in Hospital, the South Boston Institutions, Chelsea Hospital, the M'Lean Asylum, &c. Dr. Harris works well for home, and it is justifiable and praiseworthy to do so.

American Journal of Science and Art.—The reputation of this Journal is deservedly high, and its prosperity is creditable to the American public. It is now published once in two months. If it were issued monthly, the

subscription would unquestionably be increased. Reading men are impatient for intellectual food—quarterlies are too long on the way, and too bulky when they arrive. The monthly journals in Europe, devoted to the physical sciences, evidently succeed better than those on the old scheme of once in three months. It has been suggested that a weekly digest of all the periodical publications of science, like Littell's *Living Age*, would meet with decided encouragement. Medical gentlemen who are not already patrons of the *American Journal of Science and Art* should become so, as they would find it a perpetual fountain of useful knowledge.

British Record of Obstetric Medicine and Surgery.—Having examined the recommendations from eminent professional gentlemen in Great Britain, in regard to the high qualifications of Dr. Clay for conducting the above-named newly-projected Journal, and their expressions of satisfaction in the character of the specimens they have seen, we cannot think otherwise than favorably of the enterprise. It would add very much to the interest we feel, in common with other medical readers, if a copy could be obtained. If numbers have ever been addressed to this office, they have miscarried.

Burial of the Dead.—Mr. Walker says, in speaking of metropolitan grave-yards, that in "ancient Egypt the plague was unknown. Although densely populated, the health of the inhabitants was preserved by strict attention to sanitary regulations. But with time came on change—and that change was in man. The serene climate, the enriching river, the fruitful soil, remained; but when the experience of 2000 years was set at nought—when the precautions previously adopted for preserving the soil from accumulated impurities were neglected—when the sepulchral rites of civilized Egypt were exchanged for the modern but barbarous practices of interment—when the land of mummies became, as it now is, one vast charnel-house—the seed which was sown brought forth its bitter fruit, and from dangerous innovations came the most deadly pestilence. The plague first appeared in Egypt in the year 542, two hundred years after the change had been made from the ancient to the modern mode of sepulture; and every one at all acquainted with the actual condition of Egypt will at once recognize in the soil more than sufficient to account for the dreadful malady which constantly afflicts the people."

Palpitation of the Heart—Tobacco, Tea and Coffee.—Prof. W. Parker, of the New York College of Physicians and Surgeons, at a recent clinique, examined a man who was troubled with palpitation of the heart. The report in the *Annalist* states that no physical signs of organic disease of the heart could be detected; "and hence we may conclude," says Dr. P., "with much certainty, that all the cardiac disturbance is purely functional, depending on derangement of the digestive organs—and this again depending on the free use of tobacco, tea and coffee, and too much confinement within doors. What, then, are the indications of treatment? Shall we give physic in such a case? Will physic cure bad habits? Not a bit of it. Let the patient simply throw away his tobacco, his tea, and his coffee; adopt a plain and wholesome diet, and take regular exercise in the open air, and he will soon be well; in a word, remove the causes of de-

rangement, and the effects will cease. Dr. Parker here alluded to the fact, that much less medicine is now given by well-educated physicians than formerly; and to the erroneous supposition that this was owing to the influence of some modern theories. Nothing, he said, could be further from the truth; on the contrary, it is owing entirely to the increase in our knowledge of disease, and especially in our more precise and certain means of diagnosis. For it may be laid down as a general rule, that the more certain and accurate is our knowledge of the nature, extent, and existing stage of disease, the more perfectly shall we adapt our remedies to the precise objects to be accomplished, and, consequently, the less will be required. While so long as our ideas of the nature, extent and location of disease, are confused and uncertain, so long shall we be prone to increase the quantity and variety of our remedies, with the hope that some one of the number will hit the disease. And lucky will he be, who, under such circumstances, does not hit the patient instead of the disease."

Commencement of the Baltimore College of Dental Surgery.—The annual commencement of the Baltimore College of Dental Surgery, for conferring degrees, was held in the saloon of the College building, on Thursday evening, March 2d. The candidates for the honors of the institution were called up by Professor Harris, and the degree of Doctor of Dental Surgery conferred by Prof. Bond, on the following gentlemen, viz., Daniel Vandinburg, N. Y.; R. W. Armstrong, Md.; John M'Calla, Pa.; B. A. Kennedy, N. C.; Charles Bond, Md.; R. D. Addington, Va.; W. H. Morgan, Ky.; Joshua King, N. C.; T. J. Jones, Ga.; Hervey Colburn, M.D., Md.; E. W. Mason, Md.; Charles Barnes, Md.; D. G. Varney, Mass., and J. J. Adair, Ky. Dr. E. Parmly, of N. Y., pronounced the valedictory address. Dr. J. J. Adair replied to Dr. Parmly on behalf of the graduating class, in a manner highly complimentary to himself, and expressive of the sentiments of those whom he represented. Prof. Bond made a brief reply from the Faculty, expressing feelings of great gratification for the sentiments expressed by Dr. Adair. The awarding committee then made their report through Dr. Gardette, who announced the name of Dr. Vandinburg, of N. Y., as the candidate that had been selected, after two examinations by the committee, to receive the reward of a beautiful set of extracting instruments.—*Dental Intelligencer.*

TO CORRESPONDENTS.—Dr. Leonard's case of *Cynosis*, and Dr. Wilbur's remarks on *Dia-*
betes, have been received.

MARRIED.—Roswell Fox, M.D., of Wethersfield, Conn., to Miss M. A. Gager.

DIED.—In South Boston, Marcellus Bowen, M.D., 37, a native of Vermont.—At Amherst, Mass., Jacob Holt, M.D., 26, late of Boston.—At Athol, Mass., Dr. Royal Humphrey, 86.—At Lewistown, Ill., Dr. Roger Viets, formerly of Conn., 37.

Report of Deaths in Boston—for the week ending May 20th, 69.—Males, 36—females, 33.—Stillborn, 3. Of consumption, 9—typhus fever, 1—lung fever, 1—scarlet fever, 7—child-bed, 1—bilious fever, 1—dropsy, 1—dropsy on the brain, 2—inflammation of the lungs, 6—inflammation of the stomach, 1—inflammation of the bowels, 2—infantile, 5—diarrhoea, 1—dysentery, 3—accidental, 2—croup, 5—convulsions, 3—measles, 2—insanity, 1—paralysis, 1—neuralgia, 1—disease of the heart, 3—disease of the brain, 1—smallpox, 1—cholera infantum, 1—delirium tremens, 1—debility, 1—mortification, 1—teething, 2—syphilis, 1—unknown, 1.

Under 5 years, 30—between 5 and 20 years, 10—between 20 and 40 years, 14—between 40 and 60 years, 11—over 60 years, 4.

Medical Miscellany.—The Cincinnati Commercial says there is a man in that city who is partially deprived of nearly every sense, except of taste alone. He is deaf, dumb, blind, cannot smell, and partially deprived of feeling by palsy. This is about as near to death as life can approach.—It has been remarked, that May, June and July are the months in which most suicides are committed in France.—On the 9th instant, a meeting of the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Lower Canada, was to take place for the purpose of adopting a code of by-laws.—A new wing is to be forthwith erected to the Montreal Hospital, to be called the "Reid Wing," in honor of the donor, the late Chief Justice Reid. It is said to be the richest hospital on this continent. The late Dr. Shakel bequeathed to it a valuable property in reversion.—T. Hooker has been prosecuted by the College of Physicians and Surgeons, in Canada, and fined £5 for practising without a license.—The next annual meeting of the American Homœopathic Institute will be held in New York, in June.—A monthly Homœopathic Medical Reporter is published at Milwaukee, Wisconsin, by Drs. Tracy and Douglass.—The American army, at some of the interior parts of Mexico, is suffering from sickness.—The Governor of Maine recommends to the legislature a favorable consideration of the wants of the Asylum for the Insane in that State, and for increased appropriations for the deaf, dumb, and blind.—There are no less than 2,853 lunatics in the licensed asylums of London.—Smallpox is said to have made its appearance in Carlisle, Pa., derived from Harrisburgh.—An adjourned meeting of the Counsellors of the Mass. Med. Society will be held at the Masonic Temple, Tremont street, Tuesday, May 30th, at 10 A.M.

J. P. MAYNARD'S LIQUID ADHESIVE PLASTER, OR COTTON SOLUTION.

A new and elegant substitute for Plaster Cloth, Sutures, Bandages, &c., in surgical operations. It is also much preferable to Court Plaster and Gold Beater's Skin, being nearly the color of the skin, adhering more closely to it, and continuing pliable and unaffected by washing.

This article, originally applied to Surgery by J. P. MAYNARD, has been found by all Surgeons who have tested it, far superior and more convenient than any former means of dressing Incised Wounds. For Burns, Sore Nipples, and all excoriated surfaces, it has proved extremely efficacious. It is not acted upon by water, and adheres with almost incredible tenacity to the skin, keeping the edges of the wound closely together, and causing it to heal with hardly a perceptible scar.

Prepared after the formula of J. P. Maynard, by MAYNARD & NOYES, and for sale by them at No. 11 Merchant's Row. apr. 26

ETHEREAL SOLUTION OF GUN COTTON,

For Dressing Wounds, Excoriated Surfaces, &c. &c. Sold at wholesale and retail, by WILLIAM B. LITTLE & CO., Druggists, 104 Hanover street. mh 22

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Prof. Simpson's Pamphlet on the use of Chloroform in Midwifery Practice, with an Appendix, containing remarks by Drs. Warren, Channing, Jackson and others, can be obtained as above. This Pamphlet contains more information on the use and properties of Chloroform than any work yet published.

March 22—47

WM. B. LITTLE & CO.

TO PHYSICIANS.

THE Advertiser, residing in one of the most pleasant and populous cities of New England, where he has enjoyed a lucrative practice for many years, is disposed to relinquish his professional interest, provided he can obtain a moderate compensation from some well-educated Physician, who has had some experience, and could be well recommended to the confidence of the inhabitants. Inquire of the Editor of this Journal. May 10—31

AYER'S CHERRY PECTORAL.

AN Anodyne Expectorant, prepared on the new plan of combining the isolated, active principles of medicine, in their purity; a plan which is found to give an energy and certainty of remedial effect far surpassing any other in use. The substances of which it is composed are those known to be most relied on for the relief of pulmonary disease, viz.: Morphine, Sanguinarine, Emetine, Tart. Ox. Antim. et Pot., Hydrocyanic Acid, Saccharum, Spt. and Aqua; combined so as perfectly to resist the action of time; and affording to physicians a compound of free, permanent hydrocyanic acid—a desideratum in medicine not hitherto obtained. Its formula has been published in this and other Medical Journals, and also submitted to some of the highest medical authorities in this country, among which are the Berkshire College of Medicine, Pittsfield, Mass.; Willoughby Medical College, Columbus, Ohio; Bowdoin Medical College, Brunswick, Me.; Vermont College of Medicine, Castleton, Vt.; Geneva Medical College, Geneva, N. Y., and also in manuscript to a large part of the medical faculty of the United States.

The attention of practitioners is respectfully solicited to this preparation, and it is confidently believed it will commend itself to their favor and confidence, having been found an invaluable remedy in treating the most obstinate as well as milder forms of pulmonary disease.

Prepared by JAMES C. AYER, Lowell, Mass. Sold by Druggists and Apothecaries generally in the Northern, Middle and Southern States, the British American Provinces, and in some of the Independent Republics of South America. March 22—april 4 copif